1	2	3
5.	The Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprise (ACE) project.	The objective of the ACE programme is to improve the investment environment for private agri-business in post farm horticulture sector in India.

Food security situation

568. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food security situation in the country is quite alarming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that per capita availability of foodgrains has gone down to 70's level;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take up steps to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The highest ever foodgrains production of 230.78 million tones was achieved in 2007-08 which was 13.5 million tones higher than 2006-07 (II Advance Estimates, 2008-09). Similarly, the foodgrains availability has also increased to 442.8 grams per day per capita in 2007 against 424.3 grams per day per capita in 1976.

(c) and (d) National Food Security Mission is implemented in 312 districts of 17 States of the country to achieve additional production of 20 million tones (10 million tones of rice, 8 million tones of wheat and 2 million tones of pulses) of foodgrains by 2011-12 to meet the growing demand and achieve food and nutritional security in the country. The total outlay of National Food Security, Mission is Rs.4882.48 crore for XI Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12).

Introduction of SRI

569. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new System of Rice Intensification (SRI) has been introduced in the country with the support of World Bank which sharply cuts the use of water by 32 per cent and yields 40 to 80 per cent high per hectare than conventional rice cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and fiscal support provided by the World Bank for this purpose;

(c) whether Government will propose to introduce SRI in all parts of the country to boost rice cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique has received considerable attention globally including India due to its potential for yield improvement and water saving. The main features of this system include transplanting of young seedlings singly in a square pattern with wide spacing; using more of organic fertilizers; and keeping the paddy field moist with intermittent drying and wetting